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BEFORE THE
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE HEARING

Hearing held on the 12th day of April, 2021,
between the hours of 2:01 p.m. and 3:38 p.m. at the Capitol
Building, Room 114, Springfield, Illinois.

Reported by: Ms. Jamie Jo Kinder, CSR 084-003306
Alaris Litigation Services
15 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, Illinois 62701

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Democratic Members:

Representative Elizabeth Hernandez, Chair
Representative Theresa Mah
Representative Kelly Burke

Republican Members:

Representative Tim Butler, Leader
Representative Avery Bourne
Representative Ryan Spain
Representative Dave Severin

Staff:

Ms. Marissa Jackson-Donnell

Witnesses:

Ms. Teresa Haley (via Zoom)
Ms. Sheila Walk (via Zoom)
Ms. Angela Harris (via Zoom)
Rev. Silas Johnson (via Zoom)
Mr. Rush Darwish
Mr. Sufyan Shaltaf
Mr. Ryan Tolley (via Zoom)
Ms. Reema Kamran (via Zoom)
Ms. Roaa Hussien (via Zoom)
Ms. Fatima El-Mohammed (via Zoom)

1 (Commenced at 2:01 p.m.)

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. We are live. The
3 House Committee on redistrict shall come to order.

4 I'm State Representative Lisa Hernandez. I am
5 a member of the Redistricting Committee and will be
6 chairing today's hearing.

7 I want to first start out by welcoming
8 Representative Theresa Mah. I don't see any other on my
9 end, and, Leader Butler, would you like to acknowledge some
10 of your members?

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Thank you,
12 Madam Chair, and thank you for hosting the hearing here at
13 the Capitol in Springfield. Appreciate it.

14 My name is Tim Butler. I'm the State
15 Representative from the 87th District. I'm the Republican
16 spokesperson on the Redistricting Committee today. I'm
17 joined by other Republican members, Representative Avery
18 Bourne, Leader Bourne, from Morrisonville, and
19 Representative David Severin from Benton, with his
20 Cardinals face mask on.

21 So happy to be here today. Thank you, Madam
22 Chair.

23 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Leader Butler.
24 I want to begin by just offering the order that we're going

1 to go through the committee.

2 I'm going to start off with a statement and
3 have Leader Butler also do the same, followed by a short
4 video from staff, and then we will go to witness testimony.

5 Let me start by thanking everyone who has
6 chosen to participate in today's hearing. Your insight and
7 participation is as important as ever as we begin the
8 redistricting process under unprecedented circumstances.

9 The United States and Illinois Constitutions
10 require the General Assembly to redraw political boundaries
11 every 10 years to account for population shifts. These
12 hearings are a part of that process.

13 House Democrats are dedicated to transparency
14 and public participation in the redistricting process.
15 While state law requires a minimum of four public hearings
16 throughout the state, our Committee intends to hold far
17 more and present additional avenues for public
18 participation.

19 Our goal is to hear from as many people as
20 possible and to gain as much information as possible about
21 the diverse communities of our state. Our staff had been
22 making hundreds of phone calls to encourage participation
23 in these upcoming hearings. Those who wish to participate
24 should be given an opportunity period.

1 We are holding a series of virtual and
2 in-person hearings throughout the state. Early last month
3 we announced a schedule of 23 hearings before proposing a
4 redistricting plan. For comparison, in 2011 the House
5 Redistricting Committee held 17 hearings in total.

6 While we are guided in this endeavor by the
7 United States Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act,
8 the Illinois Constitution and the Illinois Voting Rights
9 Act, we are also interested in any relevant demographic
10 information, such as social, political, economic, religious
11 or any other characteristics that are unique to your
12 community.

13 We want to hear your specific views on any
14 social, political, economic or religious interests,
15 commonly held in the community, any specific interest
16 groups that exist, any concerns you have regarding the
17 current boundaries, or alternatively, what works well about
18 the current boundaries, and suggestions for the drawing of
19 new boundaries.

20 In short, We want to hear any testimony that
21 is relevant to the drawing of our new political boundaries.
22 This year for the first time Illinois residents will be
23 able to participate in the process from the comfort of
24 their own homes, including through remote participation in

1 these hearings and by drawing their own maps, and you can
2 do that through the public drawing portal, which is
3 available at ilhousedems.com/redistricting. This allows
4 any Illinois resident to draw districts and share those
5 maps with the Committee for consideration.

6 The public may also submit written testimony
7 or other public comment to the Committee by e-mail at
8 redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov. All written
9 testimony, public comments and maps submitted to the
10 Committee will be made publically available at ilga.gov and
11 ilhousedems.com/redistricting. Transcripts for the
12 committees -- I'm sorry. Transcripts of the Committee's
13 hearings will also be uploaded to those sites.

14 As for today, we will begin with a short slide
15 show presentation. Following that brief presentation we
16 have a number of witnesses who have indicated a desire to
17 testify. If you have written testimony prepared, we would
18 ask that you submit the testimony to us and just briefly
19 summarize it in your oral presentation.

20 Leader Butler, do you have any words to say?

21 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Thank you,
22 Madam Chair. I would also like to welcome Representative
23 Mike Murphy from Springfield who walked into the room, one
24 of our local representatives here.

1 Let me just say again, I'm very happy that we
2 are here in Springfield today, and I have used Springfield
3 as an example throughout these hearings that we have had of
4 a city and a community and county that has been
5 gerrymandered tremendously for partisan political reasons.

6 If we go back a decade and you see the map
7 that was currently in place that was drawn a decade ago,
8 that first election after Springfield was split up, it was
9 split up into three Senate districts, three House districts
10 and additionally Sangamon County has another House member
11 that comes into Sangamon County. That's four House
12 members, three Senate members that all come into a county
13 of 200,000 people.

14 And when you look at the way that it was
15 split, coming out of that election off the first new map,
16 what resulted because of the partisan gerrymandering in
17 Springfield was not a single State senator was elected from
18 Springfield or Sangamon County in that first map. In fact,
19 the three State senators that represented Sangamon County
20 were no closer than 55 miles from the Capitol city.

21 In fact, the Representatives, there's only one
22 Representative, only one member of the legislature out of
23 those seven people that represents Sangamon County that
24 lived in Sangamon County. Not a single one represented

1 lived in the Capitol city.

2 Now, through the vagaries of appointments and
3 elections since then, the script has been flipped a little
4 bit, especially through appointing process. We now
5 actually have four members of the legislature who live in
6 the Capitol city of Springfield. But my point is, when
7 that map was drawn originally that elected four incumbents
8 I believe under that new map, no one represented lived in
9 the Capitol city. No one lived in the Capitol city.

10 I believe Springfield was the largest
11 community out of 20 largest communities in the state that
12 did not have a single member of the legislature that lived
13 in that community, and this was done for partisan political
14 reasons to draw a map that created districts, especially to
15 the south and east of Springfield, to elect Democrats.
16 It's as easy as that, and people, I have talked to plenty
17 of people more or less over the years and they make no
18 bones about that.

19 So again, I appreciate the fact that we're
20 here today. I think we have a good lineup of witnesses. I
21 see a lot of good community members from Springfield. But
22 again, Springfield is a perfect example of when we talk
23 about the partisan gerrymandering, what happens when those
24 things happen. And this community was not represented,

1 especially early in this decade, because of the divisions
2 that were created under artificial boundaries under the
3 political process that we have.

4 So, Madam Chair, again, I appreciate that
5 you're here in Springfield, I appreciate that people are
6 back in Springfield this week. Looking forward to
7 hopefully a productive week and looking forward to what the
8 witnesses have to say today. Thank you, Madam Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Leader Butler.
10 Next we will go to the short video.

11 MARISSA JACKSON-DONNELL: Hello. My name is
12 Marissa Jackson-Donnell. I am an employee of the Illinois
13 House of Representatives, and I am here to give a brief
14 overview of the State's redistricting procedures.

15 I'll briefly discuss the background of
16 redistricting and the redistricting process in Illinois. I
17 will also be going over federal and state redistricting
18 requirements and guidelines.

19 Finally, we will be looking at what
20 preliminary data reveals about population trends in the
21 state and region.

22 Redistricting is the process that ensures all
23 Illinois residents are afforded equal representation in the
24 State legislature and Federal Congress as guaranteed by the

1 United States Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court held a
2 series of rulings in the 1960s that congressional and state
3 legislative districts in each state must be of
4 approximately equal population, establishing the principle
5 of one person/one vote. As a result, state's redraw their
6 congressional and state districts every 10 years to reflect
7 changes in population.

8 The timeline for redrawing the legislative map
9 is based on the Illinois Constitution. The Constitution
10 gives the Illinois legislature the initial responsibility
11 of passing the new legislative map. Both the State House
12 and State Senate must pass a plan with majority votes,
13 which then must be signed by the governor.

14 If a new map does not go into effect by the
15 Constitutional deadline of June 30th, responsibility for
16 creating a new map passes from the legislature to a
17 legislative redistricting commission. The commission would
18 consist of eight members, with two of each -- with two each
19 appointed by the legislative leaders, and no more than four
20 from the same political party.

21 A majority vote of five or more commission
22 members will constitute final approval of a new map.
23 However, if the commission does not agree to a map by
24 September 1st, the Illinois Supreme Court will submit two

1 names, one from each party, to the Illinois Secretary of
2 State, who will then choose one name at random to serve as
3 the ninth member of the commission. Five of the nine
4 members of the commission must agree to a plan no later
5 than October 5th.

6 In order to understand the process of creating
7 new districts, we must look at some legal guiding
8 principles. First among these is equal population.
9 Congressional districts must be merely equal in population,
10 while State districts must be substantially equal in
11 population.

12 Federal and state law also requires that all
13 districts be contiguous, which means that all parts of the
14 district must be next to each other unless connected by
15 water. Annexations and unincorporated areas and
16 municipalities and counties sometimes mean communities are
17 discontinuous. However, congressional and state districts
18 must be adjacent or connected at all points.

19 A more difficult requirement to define is
20 compactness. There are at least 30 different scientific
21 ways to measure how compact a district is, but no statute
22 or court precedent identifies standard criteria of
23 compactness.

24 In theory, compactness focuses on the shape of

1 the district's boundaries, how spread out a district is
2 from the central core or where the district's population
3 center of gravity is. In practice, compactness is hindered
4 by the geography and on-the-ground realities. So often,
5 the interpretation of compactness involves more than just a
6 visual test

7 Illinois is one of 14 states that nests its
8 house districts, also called Representative districts,
9 inside one of the Senate districts, also called legislative
10 districts. Mapmakers will also look, where possible, to
11 follow existing political and geographical boundaries in
12 ways that maximize a community's opportunity to have its
13 interests represented. As we know, however, county,
14 municipality, township and natural geographic boundaries
15 are not always compact or contiguous.

16 By studying population data and holding public
17 hearings like this to listen to the thoughts of residents
18 across the state, lawmakers look to identify what are known
19 as communities of interest. A community of interest is a
20 group of people concentrated in a geographic area where
21 socially, culturally, ethnically, economically, religiously
22 or otherwise alike and can be joined to a district to most
23 effectively have their voices heard. The factors
24 contributing to any particular community of interest will

1 vary throughout the state.

2 Federal law requires redistricting plans to
3 respect minority representation. The principles of the
4 Federal Voting Rights Act are in place to prevent the
5 reduction of opportunities for minority populations to
6 participate equally in the electoral process. However,
7 districts cannot be drawn solely on the basis of race.

8 Illinois law also protects representation of
9 racial and language minority groups. The Illinois Voting
10 Rights Act helps to prevent minority fracturing or dividing
11 a concentration of minorities among two or more districts
12 by creating -- by requiring mapmakers to consider creating
13 crossover districts, coalition districts or influence
14 districts.

15 A crossover district is one in which large
16 minority groups may elect the candidate of its choice with
17 help from voters of the majority group.

18 A coalition district brings multiple racial or
19 language minority groups together to elect a candidate of
20 their choice.

21 An influence district allows a group to
22 influence an election outcome without being the majority
23 population in a district.

24 These state law requirements come into play

1 only after compliance with federal law and U.S. and State
2 Constitutional requirements on redistricting.

3 In addition, the law ensures transparency and
4 public participation by requiring public hearings across
5 the state, one of which we're having here right now. At
6 the end of the presentation we will display an email
7 address on the screen, which Chair Hernandez already
8 provided, where you can submit your ideas. The Committee
9 is also accepting written testimony today.

10 Now that we've covered the redistricting
11 process, let's discuss what data shows about Illinois
12 population.

13 The U.S. Census Bureau has delayed the release
14 of much of the decennial census data by more than six
15 months until this fall. However, the U.S. Census Bureau's
16 annual population estimates show some trends that may help
17 inform the work ahead.

18 The Census 2019 population estimate shows an
19 overall decline in state population over the past decade.
20 There are, however, areas that project to have population
21 gains. Communities with the largest population by
22 percentage increase since 2010 were Kendall, Monroe,
23 Champaign and Kane Counties. Demographically speaking, the
24 State's White population is projected to decline, while

1 African-American populations statewide will likely see a
2 smaller decline. Hispanic and Asian population across
3 Illinois are projected to see growth.

4 Thank you very much for your attention and for
5 coming out to share your thoughts today. As the Chair
6 mentioned, you will be able to find testimony from this and
7 other hearings on ilga.gov and on
8 ilhousedems.com/redistricting.

9 The redistricting website offers additional
10 ways to engage in the process, including our public drawing
11 portal where you can draw and submit your own district
12 maps.

13 You can send further written testimony and
14 suggestions to the Committee any time by emailing
15 redistrictingcommittee@hds.ilga.gov. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler, did you
17 have a question?

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Yes. Thank
19 you, Madam Chair.

20 I just wanted to inquire, because this has
21 been asked or this has been presented obviously at every
22 hearing, but when I look at the portal, the [ilhousedems](http://ilhousedems.com)
23 portal, I do not see anything that has been -- I don't see
24 any maps that have been submitted. I don't see any

1 testimony that we have had to date.

2 So when would we expect that? I mean, we have
3 been doing this for two weeks now. When will we expect
4 that information that we talk about in that presentation to
5 be up on your website?

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Leader Butler, I know you
7 have been waiting patiently and you have been asking. So
8 have I. Still waiting on it. My hope, like we have added
9 more of these committees that we will have an answer very
10 soon. Also, I just ask for further patience.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Do we know if
12 anyone from the public has actually submitted maps so far?

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: My understanding through
14 some of our testimony that there has been submission of the
15 information. That's how I understood it.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Okay. So when
17 it gets submitted to the website then is it up to staff, or
18 who determines? It doesn't automatically get put up on the
19 website. Who determines what gets put up on the website?
20 It's the ilhousedems website.

21 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That's correct. So once
22 again, I'm going to have to ask for your patience. We will
23 look into that.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Thank you,

1 Madam Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So next we will
3 start our testimonies.

4 Leader Butler, we have -- I do want to run
5 this by you first. We have three panels. The first panel
6 has two witnesses; the second, five; the third, four. Is
7 it your wish that we just ask questions after each panel
8 instead of waiting since it's large or would you rather
9 just wait to the end?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Why don't we go
11 through each unless -- it looks like there's the first two
12 panels are Springfield area residents, if that's correct.

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure.

14 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: And then why
15 don't we just do those two as one big panel and then go to
16 panel three. Does that work?

17 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: That works.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Okay.

19 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. So we will start
20 with the first panel.

21 We have Teresa Haley from the NAACP from
22 Springfield, and then we have Ken Page from ACLU. We will
23 start with Teresa Haley, and I will ask the witnesses
24 before you start your testimony to spell out your name for

1 the purposes of the record.

2 Okay. Teresa.

3 TERESA HALEY: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Teresa Haley, T-E-R-E-S-A H-A-L-E-Y. I am the Springfield
5 branch president of the NAACP as well as the Illinois State
6 Conference president of the NAACP.

7 Thank you for allowing me to speak today.
8 This is such an important issue to the NAACP. Throughout
9 history, blacks have been left behind. It is so important
10 that we are counted, that we are a part of this process.

11 So many people in the black community don't
12 understand how important redistricting is. We are about to
13 lose Congressional seats. We can't afford to lose any
14 seats throughout Illinois, and especially downstate in
15 Central Illinois.

16 It is important that we continue to be a part
17 of the process, to have a strong voice. We remind
18 ourselves all the time that people fought, bled and died
19 for us to be here on today to give testimony, to let you
20 know that every voice counts. Every voice is important.

21 The NAACP is opposed to so many things, such
22 as packing and stacking and cracking, and we have seen it
23 happen over and over again. A person who lives here in
24 Springfield, as Leader Tim Butler stated earlier, it is so

1 important that we have local representation.

2 I am so tired of people coming from the
3 outside, speaking on behalf of not only Sangamon County,
4 but surrounding counties, representing people who look like
5 me testifying today, but they don't have any people who
6 look like me living in their communities. So the impacts
7 are totally different.

8 Our goal is to make sure that blacks and
9 browns and anyone else who has been left behind are heard,
10 not only today, but throughout eternity.

11 The NAACP is committed to ensuring that
12 communities of colors have a full opportunity to elect
13 representatives who will protect our interests in terms of
14 our state legislators throughout Illinois.

15 Voting is so important to us. We want to
16 splendor the districts, and we don't want to see what's
17 always happened in the past. Today is the day. It's time
18 for a change and that time is now.

19 We want to ensure the fair election process.
20 We want to ensure that anybody who is interested in running
21 for office has the necessary tools and responsibilities and
22 they are equipped with everything that they need to be
23 successful in the election process throughout Illinois.

24 Black communities again want to participate,

1 need to participate, because redistricting impacts all of
2 us in ways that you would never imagine. The black
3 struggle continues to be real and we continue to fight, not
4 only on the battlefield, but on the front line.

5 When you look at black America prior to the
6 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment, a lot has changed, but a lot
7 has rolled back. So it's important for all of us here
8 today to do our part, to ensure that all people throughout
9 the United States and in Illinois are created and treated
10 fairly and equally.

11 Thank you so much for giving me an opportunity
12 to speak today.

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Haley, for
14 your presentation.

15 Next we will -- We have Mr. Ken Page.

16 TERESA HALEY: Ken indicated that he wouldn't
17 be on.

18 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

19 TERESA HALEY: You're welcome.

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Representative Butler, do
21 you want to question or should we continue?

22 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Sure. That way
23 we don't have to have Teresa stick around for all of them.

24 And let me just say to my friend Teresa Haley,

1 she's one of the greatest advocates, not only for the
2 African-American community here in Springfield, but for our
3 community overall, and I think you can -- you can hear her
4 passion in the voice of her testimony and her desire to
5 make sure that our community is protected and not split
6 apart.

7 You know, we have -- We have a very vibrant
8 and engaged African-American community here in Springfield,
9 but unfortunately we have not had African-American
10 representation until recently through an appointment
11 process when Senator Doris Turner was appointed as a new
12 State Senator, and I think that's been one of the concerns
13 of the community is that our African-American community
14 has not been represented and largely that has been because
15 the districts have been divided up.

16 So, Teresa, I appreciate your testimony, and I
17 think you're right, the count is so important. We have put
18 so many resources into counting folks in the census, and we
19 got to make sure that we get it right when it comes to
20 redistricting as well.

21 So I just appreciate you being here today and
22 appreciate all you do for the community

23 TERESA HALEY: Thank you, Leader Butler.
24 Please let us know what we could do to assist you as well.

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you again, Ms.
2 Haley.

3 Leader Butler, I have a couple of answers to
4 your questions from earlier. In terms of the maps being
5 submitted, I am told that we have not received maps from
6 the portal yet. And the second is as Representative
7 Tarver stated at Friday's hearing, all testimony will be
8 uploaded to ilga in the near future and will be
9 cross-posted to the ilhousedems redistricting e-mail.

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Okay. But that
11 -- the testimony hasn't been uploaded yet? It's to be
12 uploaded?

13 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes.

14 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right. Next we will
16 go to the second panel. We have Ms. Sheila Walk, Angela
17 Harris, Reverend Silas Johnson, Minister Gary Pierce and
18 Darryl Eugene Fox.

19 We will begin with Sheila Walk. You may
20 start

21 SHEILA WALK: Good afternoon, everyone. I am
22 Sheila Walk, S-H-E-I-L-A W-A-L-K, executive director of
23 the Springfield Area Arts Council. The Arts Council works
24 with the residents of and visitors to Sangamon and Menard

1 counties in Central Illinois. Our mission is to enrich
2 communities through the arts.

3 I grew up on a centennial farm between
4 Effingham and Mattoon, that my family still owns and
5 operates, and I taught high school speech and theater for
6 about 30 years.

7 The logo there in the corner of my screen is
8 from Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest for
9 high school students. The Arts Council manages the Central
10 Illinois regional and the Illinois state contests.

11 In early May, our state champion, Catherine
12 Herrera from Taft High School in Chicago, will compete with
13 other state winners at the national contest for a top prize
14 of \$20,000.

15 Thank you for allowing me to address the
16 respected members of this committee and for allowing me to
17 do so remotely. Like you, I have been careful during the
18 pandemic and will receive my second vaccine later this
19 month.

20 To begin, I will borrow some words from
21 members of the other Illinois chamber. From State Senator
22 Elgie Sims. The outcomes are far too important to be
23 decided by a handful of political insiders. Citizens must
24 have their voices heard.

1 From State Senator Jason Barickman. Hundreds
2 of thousands of Illinoisans have asked for this General
3 Assembly to provide for an independent commission for
4 drawing maps. They want, and millions of Illinoisans want,
5 a redistricting process that results from citizens drawing
6 maps, not politicians picking voters.

7 From Governor J.B. Pritzker. Equity is a very
8 important component of a fair map.

9 Now for me, Sheila of Springfield. I want
10 Illinois district maps to be drawn impartially, using a
11 transparent process. Selfishly, though, I rather like the
12 district in which I currently vote for my representative
13 and senator in the state legislature because there's a good
14 chance a Democrat may win. But a broader prospective is
15 needed.

16 Legislative redistricting is complex, and
17 therefore it's difficult for voters to understand. I
18 appreciate past reforms that have been undertaken. It
19 seems no matter how the lines are drawn, no one feels like
20 her or his side won. But legislative boundaries
21 reverberate through every political decision for the next
22 decade.

23 For mine, an average downstate voter's
24 perspective, it seems boundaries have some basis in race

1 and are drawn to split minority votes. This is not a
2 practice that should continue through the 21st century. We
3 can do better.

4 Can I present a proposed map? No. There are
5 people here quite qualified to do that. But I can ask the
6 basic geography be respected. Let the map of Illinois
7 determine the legislative districts, not the ethnic
8 population of an area, not the income level of an area, not
9 the educational or employment demographics of an area.
10 Just let equal population guide the process.

11 Now, let me speak for a few minutes from an
12 arts administrator's perspective. Boundaries define
13 legislative districts. They also define communities. The
14 arts reflect communities. Artists and musicians and actors
15 not only can help identify those communities, but also they
16 can bridge boundaries among communities.

17 When the legislative lines have been drawn,
18 let performers and visual artists help create a sense of
19 the new place. The arts are a dynamic, apolitical,
20 nonpartisan. Let Illinois' working artists help build
21 belonging and identity.

22 Here in the Land of Lincoln, our State
23 Constitution requires the districts be contiguous and
24 reasonably compact. I know that is more difficult to do

1 than to say. Certainly I wish all involved wisdom in
2 redrawing the legislative lines to match the 2020 census
3 results.

4 Please let the statewide arts community help
5 you communicate with new districts voters. Thank you for
6 your attention. Good luck in your work.

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Sheila, for
8 your presentation.

9 Next we are going to Angela Harris, president
10 of the Pioneer Park Neighborhood Association. Angela.

11 ANGELA HARRIS: Good afternoon. Angela
12 Harris, A-N-G-E-L-A H-A-R-R-I-S, and I'm president of the
13 Pioneer Park Neighborhood Association, and I'd like to
14 thank this body for the opportunity to speak to you today
15 regarding the redistricting that we are undertaking this
16 year.

17 I would like to speak on behalf of our
18 community and state that we would like to remain included
19 in the process. We do have concerns that the census data
20 is delayed. We have concerns that as this process
21 continues, that the minority community and brown community
22 remain included.

23 So I appreciate the opportunity to be a part
24 of this panel. We are looking forward to putting together

1 some recommendations for the future to be considered, but I
2 would also like to encourage you to continue including the
3 community with this process.

4 I, too, share concerns that representation
5 from Springfield, the State Capitol of Illinois, is lacking
6 when it comes to being elected in the legislative
7 districts. That is -- That is something that we would like
8 to see changed and we would like to be a part of.

9 That's all I have for today. Thank you very
10 much.

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Ms. Harris.

12 Next, Reverend Silas Johnson. Reverend
13 Johnson. Okay. We will move on to Minister Gary Pierce.

14 MINISTER GARY PIERCE: Thank you. My only
15 concern is that when you draw up this map that it will be
16 drawn up to be able to get more representation in Central
17 Illinois, specifically in Springfield. Decatur is what I'm
18 really focusing on, and looking at the minority community.

19 When you look at this being a duality of a
20 rural as well as a little urban, this will take a special
21 person to really represent that area. So if it's drawn up
22 to really represent the African-Americans to where we can
23 have a chance to really have a real representation, then
24 I'm saying that, from my observations, that will be great.

1 That's the only reason I wanted to have some
2 input. I would like to see us maybe get some
3 representation in this part of Central Illinois for the
4 African-American community because there are a lot of
5 issues that I feel, maybe some of them are being addressed,
6 but there are some that are not being addressed like they
7 should be. That's it.

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Minister
9 Pierce, for your words.

10 Next we have Darryl Eugene Fox. Darryl.
11 Darryl Fox. Okay. I'm going to ask if Reverend Johnson,
12 is he there? Once. Twice. Or Mr. Darryl Fox.

13 Okay. With no presence, I'm going to go to
14 questions. Is there any question, Leader Butler?

15 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Thank you,
16 Madam Chair. You know I can never pass up the opportunity.

17 First of all, thank you all for testifying and
18 I believe, and correct me if I'm wrong, Ms. Walk, Ms.
19 Harris and I know Gary, and I know Mr. Pierce, lives in the
20 96th District as well as Teresa Haley as well, and let me
21 just -- Let me just say, Ms. Walk, I think you gave the
22 most eloquent testimony that we have had in two weeks, two
23 weeks of hearings, and just a tidbit for you from -- So
24 this is a great example.

1 I believe Sheila lives about three-quarters of
2 a mile south of me on the north end of Springfield, yet as
3 she stated, she's pretty happy with her representation as
4 Democrats. I think that underscores my point, that these
5 maps were drawn for political reasons.

6 Now, Sheila might not like if the maps get
7 redrawn and I become her representative because I might not
8 agree with her philosophically, but the fact that we live
9 less than a mile apart I think should stand for something.

10 And, Sheila, just let me say that the 87th
11 District, which I'm proud to represent, is also the home of
12 Langston Hughes' first poem in Lincoln, Illinois, and I
13 hope that is something that you can appreciate, the fact
14 that Mr. Hughes gave his first poem as an eighth grader
15 while going to school in Lincoln, Illinois.

16 To Ms. Harris. I really appreciate your
17 testimony, especially your concerns about the census being
18 delayed. That is something that we have discussed at
19 length in these hearings. There is great concerns about
20 the delays in the census and the fact that we believe the
21 use of American Community Survey data would be wrong, that
22 it would not accurately represent our communities,
23 including, as has been testified in these hearings,
24 under-representation of minority communities and rural

1 communities. I think that's a real concern. So I
2 appreciate you bringing that to light.

3 And to Gary. I have known Gary for quite
4 awhile now and appreciate what he has done in the
5 community. I think he makes a good point of how we -- how
6 we tie together this unique area of the state that has been
7 carved up.

8 My district represents obviously the urban
9 areas here in Springfield, but it's largely rural with
10 competing interests, I would say, competing philosophies
11 and I'm sure Roxanna Murphy, who was here earlier, is kind
12 of the same, even though he doesn't go out of Sangamon
13 County. There he is. His district doesn't go out of
14 Sangamon County, but he represents a large chunk of the
15 city and a large chunk of the rural area as does
16 Representative Scherer.

17 I think this is something when it comes to
18 drawing the lines that needs to be thought about and make
19 sure that we're respecting communities in all census, and
20 communities where we live, communities of minority
21 communities, communities of interest as we say, but also
22 the communities that we live in, day in and day out. I
23 think that has to be something that is respected here.

24 So anyway, no real questions per se, Madam

1 Speaker, but just appreciate those who took the time to
2 testify here this afternoon.

3 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you.

4 Leader Butler, just so you're aware, we have
5 two more witnesses added at the end. So we will do panel
6 three, which is four, I have four on there and then we will
7 continue.

8 We will start with the third panel. Rush
9 Darwish from the MENA Independent Governmental Advisory
10 Council. We have also Sufyan Shaltaf. I hope I'm
11 pronouncing that correctly. Next we have Ryan Tolley, and
12 then -- from the Change Illinois Action Fund, and then we
13 have Steven Monroy.

14 Mr. Rush Darwish, would you like to begin?
15 Press the button in the front.

16 RUSH DARWISH: Sorry. I'm a rookie. We will
17 get used to it. Wonderful good afternoon to everyone. My
18 name is Rush Darwish, R-U-S-H, last name is Darwish, D as
19 in David, A-R-W-I-S-H, and I'm the president of the
20 Arab-American Business Professional Association, and myself
21 and Sufyan represent a larger body organization called the
22 MENA, which is for Middle Eastern/North African Committee,
23 and we are now independent government advisory council with
24 many issues, but right now our main issue is the issue of

1 redistricting.

2 The story I'm about to tell you, ladies and
3 gentlemen, is not a story about today. It's a story that
4 started 80 years ago, and that story started on Harlem
5 Avenue. I would say in the Bridgeview southwest suburbs.
6 It started with my mom and dad and many grandparents as
7 well who came from different parts of the Middle East and
8 North Africa, and I want you all to know they didn't come
9 to this country with an Arab or dream or a Muslim dream.
10 They came to this country with the American dream, and that
11 dream was to come here and take advantage of those
12 wonderful opportunities that America has to offer, that
13 freedom to make sure that they get that opportunity to
14 work, to provide for their families, and something that
15 they value so greatly, and that is education, and make sure
16 that their children go to school, become professionals or
17 someone like me who was fortunate enough to become an
18 activist and a small business owner.

19 And here we are, fast forward roughly 80 years
20 later, and all we have to do is go back to Harlem Avenue,
21 but it's expanded greatly. Different parts from north to
22 south to east to west. The Arab-American and Muslim
23 community have thrived like we have never seen before.

24 I'm certain some of you at some point have

1 been down Harlem Avenue, and it's truly a special thing to
2 see. Arab-American businesses, Muslim business owners,
3 doctors and lawyers who truly make up a majority of these
4 businesses. And more importantly, we have seen families,
5 generations now, who go on to school and also pass on that
6 importance of growth and become the best professionals they
7 can be.

8 When we talk about even the religious
9 institutions in Orland Park and in Bridgeview. The Mosque
10 Foundation in Bridgeview and the Orland Park Mosque are two
11 of the largest congregations for Muslims in the entire
12 Midwest.

13 Again, we are very proud of this. We are
14 proud of what we see because, as minorities, especially
15 after 911, I'm certain most of you know all the
16 difficulties that we dealt with back then until now as
17 Muslims and Arab-Americans, the difficulties we will
18 continue to deal with, with stereotypes and racial
19 inequalities.

20 So, yes, I have a number to share with you
21 all, and that's zero. That's the representation that we
22 have here in Springfield, Illinois. Zero Arab-Americans
23 and Muslims that have an opportunity to pass laws and to
24 have somebody that reflects the values of the people of

1 that district.

2 This is why we're here today, myself and
3 Sufyan, representing this MENA organization. We are here
4 to talk to you about that the time is not 10 years from
5 now. We can't wait. The time is now. We want the
6 opportunity to have a MENA, Middle Eastern/North African
7 district, or some will even say an Arab-American-Muslim
8 district that's in the state legislature here in
9 Springfield.

10 This is an important step that of course is
11 not just from, again, two individuals. We come on behalf
12 of a very strong thriving community that's eager for this
13 opportunity, and I want to share with you all this, that we
14 are now getting involved with voting, we are now having
15 people, even like myself, who was fortunate to run a couple
16 of years ago for congress. People are excited. People
17 want to take that next step.

18 But, yes, we do have a problem. We still have
19 a large amount of members in our community who feel that
20 they don't count. They feel disenfranchised and, yes, they
21 feel that the political system in Springfield and beyond
22 don't serve them. And we believe that the way we change
23 that is to have at least that one first step, that one
24 person that could represent our values and what we believe

1 in.

2 And also I want to just say this before Sufyan
3 jumps on with some more information, is that this is not
4 just about serving one community. This is about serving
5 everyone because that's our duty as Americans and, yes, we
6 are proud of the work that we're doing outside of our
7 communities. Organizations like the Arab-American Family
8 Services and also the Zakat Foundation. So many
9 organizations have now come together and done such a
10 phenomenal job with outreach, especially now during
11 COVID-19.

12 So we are ready, but you have to say it the
13 way it is, and sometimes it's the toughest words that have
14 to come out of our mouths because we have such pride, but
15 we are asking for some help. We need that first step. We
16 have a community that is ready. We have a community that
17 wants to give, that wants to vote, that wants to take that
18 next step. But we're here asking for your help and help
19 us, one, we have a district that we're working on that
20 we're drawing, but we have to be also honest that nothing
21 can happen for real if we don't have Springfield support
22 and the support of this Committee to make sure that we do
23 have this cycle right now, the first Arab-American-Muslim
24 individual to be a state rep and to represent this

1 district.

2 I thank you all so much for your time and I
3 hope your family is safe, by the way, because I know what
4 we're doing here is important work, but nothing is more
5 important than what is happening with COVID-19, and I know
6 you lost certainly family and friends from this difficult
7 time.

8 So thank you, thank you for giving us the
9 opportunity to speak about this issue because it's
10 extremely important to us.

11 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Darwish.
12 Really appreciate your testimony.

13 We also have Mr. Sufyan Shaltaf. Yes. Please
14 step up and turn on the mic.

15 SUFYAN SHALTAF: Hello everyone. Thank you
16 for having me today. My name is Sufyan Shaltaf,
17 S-U-F-Y-A-N S-H-A-L-T-A-F, and I'm also with the MENA --
18 Independent MENA Advisory Council that Rush mentioned.

19 I think as Rush very eloquently put it, I
20 think our core message today to all of you members of this
21 Committee and anyone really listening or watching is that
22 we feel that our community, the Arab-American-Muslim
23 community, in the southwest suburban portion of Cook County
24 is prepared and deserving of a state representative, and

1 that is demonstrated by a variety of reasons, some of which
2 that Rush touched on.

3 I think, you know, obviously the reason that I
4 say southwest suburban Cook County, for those of you who
5 may not know, is that that's where our community is really
6 most concentrated and that's really clear from varying data
7 sources. Obviously we don't have the census data that was
8 just recently conducted. But even if we did, we would have
9 to kind of delve very specifically into it to get to our
10 community because there was never a MENA portion that we
11 could kind of mark on the census to indicate that we were a
12 member of that community unfortunately.

13 But we do have voter registration data. We do
14 have American Community Survey data. We obviously have
15 religious congregations, like Rush mentioned, every Friday.
16 For Muslim-Americans, Friday prayer is very important. And
17 between the Bridgeview Mosque, between the Orland Park
18 Mosque there are thousands of congregants that come every
19 Friday. This is pre-pandemic obviously. During the
20 pandemic things have shifted and they have gone virtual.

21 There is a new mosque that's being built in
22 the Palos Park area, also in southwest suburban side. So
23 there's going to be three very major mosques in that
24 region, and so that really points to the fact that our

1 community is very concentrated there as well as the
2 business community that Rush mentioned.

3 Yeah, and I think, you know, outside of that,
4 I just feel like, you know, with this council that we are
5 working on, we are talking with a lot of the surrounding
6 communities, talking with a lot of stakeholders to ensure
7 that we are building community together and that the
8 process that we're going through isn't at the expense of
9 anyone. Right? We want to ensure that we are working
10 together with all, you know, surrounding communities to,
11 you know, put together a map, put together a district that
12 we feel is fair and that we feel would be able to create
13 community, and like Rush said, to enfranchise, if you will,
14 to our community, the Arab-American-Muslim community.

15 Finally, the last thing I want to say is that
16 there have obviously -- there has obviously been a very
17 heightened awareness of a need for representation amongst
18 our community members, and that is indicated by two very
19 important things. One, is that we're seeing a record
20 number of Middle Eastern/North African,
21 Arab-American/Muslim-American community members running for
22 office. Right?

23 In the last few cycles we have seen an uptick
24 like never before. And along with that, what we have seen

1 is that a lot of Arab-Americans/Muslim-Americans have been
2 registering to vote, thanks in part to a lot of the
3 different organizations that do that in our area, and also
4 volunteering, getting involved, getting civically engaged.
5 Right?

6 In addition to that, we have also seen the
7 financial capacity of our community to be able to support
8 those candidates that are running for office. We have seen
9 almost a million dollars in campaign contributions come
10 from independent, you know, individual contributions
11 directly to Middle Eastern/North African,
12 Arab-American/Muslim-Americans candidates that have run in
13 our area, which is a very sizeable number if you're talking
14 about something like a state rep seat, state representative
15 district or really any district, you know. A million
16 dollars is really a lot of money.

17 So with that being said, I think I really just
18 want to come back to our core message, which is that all of
19 the data that we have presented, just speaking generally
20 about our community, and obviously we have a bunch of data
21 to back this up, so I'm happy to speak with anyone on this
22 committee to provide that, is that we're ready, we are
23 ready for a district, we feel that we're deserving of it
24 and we want to work with everyone on this committee, but

1 also with our surrounding communities and surrounding
2 stakeholders to ensure that this is done with everyone's
3 support. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Shaltaf.
5 Really appreciate the testimony very much so.

6 Next we have Ryan Tolley from the Change
7 Illinois Action Fund.

8 RYAN TOLLEY: Thank you, Chair Hernandez, and
9 committee members for allowing me the opportunity to
10 testify here today. My name is Ryan Tolley, R-Y-A-N
11 T-O-L-L-E-Y, and I am the policy director for Change
12 Illinois and the Change Illinois Action Fund. Both are
13 nonpartisan nonprofits that educate, engage and advocate
14 for ethics and efficiency in governments and elections.

15 Change Illinois is a coalition of more than 30
16 organizations and we have long advocated for an independent
17 transparent redistricting process. It's important to recap
18 the past three weeks of redistricting hearings that have
19 occurred both in the House and the Senate because there is
20 a lot that remains unaddressed. Unfortunately many of our
21 recommendations and concerns shared widely by many of those
22 who have testified remain unanswered.

23 Holding hearings is not enough. We have had
24 witnesses reach out to us who have never received Zoom

1 access after filing witness slips or had trouble navigating
2 the process altogether. Other people have raised
3 complaints that they couldn't testify because they were
4 unable to move around their work schedules, as most
5 hearings are being held on weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and
6 5:00 p.m.

7 At one hearing there was a witness calling in
8 from their job who couldn't finish testifying because they
9 were worried about their boss seeing them on their phone.
10 This is not how an open and transparent process works.

11 There were two hearings, one in Rock Island
12 and one on the south side of Chicago, that did not provide
13 a way to participate remotely, thereby making residents
14 choose between their health and standing up for their
15 community. That was the case despite the General Assembly
16 making remote participation available for the first time
17 this year, making it easier to govern during a pandemic.
18 Not having remote participation options is not inclusive
19 for many Illinoisans who should have a say in what their
20 district looks like.

21 There still remains ambiguity over which data
22 lawmakers intend to use. It has been said on a few
23 occasions by committee members that lawmakers are
24 considering multiple data sources, and it has been made

1 clear that the General Assembly intends to move forward
2 with passing a map before June 30th.

3 Therefore, we can only surmise that this
4 committee has no intention of using 2020 census data to
5 draw maps as the census bureau officials have made it
6 abundantly clear that 2020 census data will not be
7 available until the fall, at the earliest mid August, and
8 at the latest September 30.

9 Only one state, Oklahoma, has formally decided
10 to use American Community Survey data. We cannot follow
11 their path. Many witnesses have raised concerns and
12 objections to using ACS data and not using the 2020 census
13 data.

14 It is telling that barely any witnesses have
15 come forward to talk about the merits of using ACS data
16 rather than 2020 census data. We do not accept the notion
17 that the June 30th deadline is more important than ensuring
18 we have the most accurate and reliable data to ensure that
19 everyone is counted and that has historically been used for
20 redistricting in Illinois. Why do we continue to be three
21 weeks into this process and still cannot get a clear
22 picture of what data this committee is using?

23 As our organization has testified to
24 previously, there is a path to use 2020 census data without

1 having to draw a name randomly for the tie-breaker
2 commission. This Committee could ask courts for a leave
3 from the Constitutional deadlines and move our primary
4 election date back through legislation, even if only for
5 the upcoming 2022 election.

6 The General Assembly made similar
7 accommodations for the 2020 election, passing an election
8 omnibus to provide for temporary changes to election law.
9 This is not a new idea. California took corrective steps
10 to navigate census bureau delays last summer and other
11 states are pursuing the court option.

12 Illinois needs transparency on how this
13 committee's work will proceed. It is unclear how
14 witnesses' testimony is going to be used at map proposals.
15 It has not been made clear whether they will have the
16 opportunity to weigh in on map proposals before votes are
17 taken. It has not been made clear how long people will
18 have to submit maps or testimony to this committee.

19 It also has been mentioned at the onset of a
20 few hearings that this committee is looking for political
21 considerations, among other, from the public. Yet in the
22 presentation by House staff, their definition of community
23 of interest does not include any reference to political
24 concerns or political data.

1 It be would in the public's interest to have
2 an explanation as to how political data is going to be
3 considered. Using political data to protect political
4 candidates or elected officials or to harm one is not in
5 the best interest of Illinoisans.

6 The use of political data for partisan
7 advantage also could likely result in veto of a map
8 proposal as Governor Pritzker has publically stated he will
9 veto a partisan map.

10 We would again urge this committee to adopt
11 our following recommendations: Provide a road map for how
12 this process is going to proceed after the current public
13 hearings scheduled end; provide two weeks notice for all
14 future public hearings and publicize them more broadly than
15 what has been done so far; provide at least a two-week
16 period between the introduction of map proposals and votes
17 on those proposals so the pop -- so that several public
18 hearings can be held, at which Illinoisans can provide
19 feedback and lawmakers should respond.

20 All map proposals should include a compliance
21 report that details how lawmakers have incorporated public
22 feedback and adhere to the Federal Voting Rights Act and
23 the Illinois Voting Rights Act.

24 Thank you again for the opportunity to

1 testify. I'm happy to answer any questions.

2 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Tolley.

3 Next we will go to Steven Monroy from the
4 Mexican-American Legal Defense Education Fund. Steven, you
5 can proceed.

6 STEVEN MONROY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
7 members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify.
8 My name is Steven Monroy, spelled S-T-E-V-E-N, last name
9 M-O-N-R-O-Y, and I'm an attorney with the Mexican-American
10 Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

11 MALDEF is a national civil rights law firm
12 that works to protect the rights of Latinos in the United
13 States through community education, advocacy and
14 litigation, and our organization has been involved in
15 Illinois redistricting since the 1980s, and we have
16 regularly partnered with stakeholders representing diverse
17 communities, developed model maps and monitored the state
18 compliance with minority voting rights protections.

19 We would like to begin by recognizing the hard
20 work and dedication of all the organizations, elected
21 officials and community leaders who completed a historic
22 get-out-and-count campaign for the 2020 census in Illinois.
23 We also thank every resident who self-responded to the
24 census.

1 We have testified at several hearings of this
2 committee and of the Senate Redistricting Committee on the
3 importance of creating districts that provide Latino
4 community members a fair opportunity to elect candidates of
5 choice as required by the Federal Voting Rights Act. The
6 Federal Voting Rights Act states that -- Excuse me. The
7 Federal Voting Rights Act requires states to draw minority
8 majority districts that provide specific racial minority or
9 language minority groups the opportunity to elect
10 candidates of choice, and the best way that we have seen to
11 accomplish this is by creating districts with Latino
12 majority voting age population.

13 We urge this committee to protect existing
14 Latino majority and plurality districts and where there are
15 sufficient increases in Latino populations to then create
16 new Latino majority districts. We expect that the 2020
17 census results will show an increase in Latino population
18 statewide, but in particular in the Chicagoland area.

19 At present, the 77th House District south of
20 O'Hare and the 83rd House District in Aurora are the only
21 suburban districts with majority Latino voting age
22 population. And we urge this committee to consider whether
23 other Latino voting age majority districts can be drawn
24 based on the 2020 census results, including but not limited

1 to the areas around Elgin and Waukegan. These two existing
2 districts were close to being Latino majority in the 2011
3 remap.

4 The Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 has
5 been broadly discussed in the last hearings, but we wish to
6 know how that law will be implemented and how compliance
7 with the law will be measured. The Illinois Voting Rights
8 Act of 2011 was passed during the last redistricting cycle
9 and is different from the Illinois -- from the Federal
10 Voting Rights Act. The federal law has comprehensive
11 requirements and detailed compliance process that has been
12 worked out through decades of litigation.

13 In terms of the Illinois Voting Rights Act of
14 2011, it states that when a minority group is not large
15 enough to comprise a majority minority district, then the
16 state has to draw a district that provides the minority
17 group an opportunity to elect candidates of choice,
18 together with other groups, and we applaud that the state
19 is guided by these goals, but the law itself does not
20 contain meaningful standards for analyzing compliance.

21 In order to understand the legislative intent
22 behind the Voting Rights Act of 2011 and any proposed maps,
23 we urge the committee to include a compliance report with
24 all map proposals that details how those maps comply with

1 the Federal Voting Rights Act and the Illinois Voting
2 Rights Act.

3 As we approach the end of these scheduled
4 hearings, we are, as a committee, to provide additional
5 opportunities for public participation throughout the rest
6 of the redistricting process. We have heard time and again
7 from members of the public that they were not aware of this
8 process or confused on how to participate.

9 To conclude, we offer the final
10 recommendations: First, that any maps must account for
11 voting age population; second, that the committee considers
12 whether Latino voting age majority House Districts can be
13 drawn in Elgin, Waukegan and other areas depending on the
14 results of the 2020 census; third, that the committee
15 publishes a compliance report with all map proposals that
16 details how the maps comply with the Federal Voting Rights
17 Act and the Illinois Voting Rights Act; and finally, that
18 the committee provides at least two weeks between releasing
19 the plan and holding a hearing to consider the plan or
20 voting on the plan.

21 Thank you again for this opportunity.

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Mr. Monroy.
23 That concludes the third panel. So I'm going to go to
24 questions from the members. Representative Butler.

1 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Thank you,
2 Madam Chair, and a few questions of our witnesses here
3 today.

4 Mr. Darwish, in whose legislative district do
5 you live? Which legislative district do you live in?

6 RUSH DARWISH: The one I currently live in,
7 which is Palos Hills, is Rep Burke, Kelly Burke's district.

8 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: And, Mr. Shaltaf, is that
9 correct? And whose district do you live in?

10 SUFYAN SHALTAF: I currently live in Justin
11 Slaughter's, Representative Slaughter's district.

12 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: And so these
13 are districts that are relatively close to each other on
14 the southwest side; correct? So tell me, do you know -- So
15 first, let me back up a little bit. I just want to get
16 this correct. Are you asking for an Arab-American
17 district, a Muslim district or an Arab-American-Muslim
18 district?

19 A It would be -- The best way to describe it, if
20 we get into the technical part, Leader Butler, would be
21 MENA, Middle Eastern/North African, which would comprise of
22 Arab-Americans, Muslim-American and Christian
23 Arab-American.

24 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: That's what I

1 was getting. So really more Arab-American and I get -- I
2 gotcha. I gotcha.

3 Okay. So do you know what the population --
4 You said you're looking at a map or something like that.
5 Enough that fall under MENA are located in this area of
6 Cook County that you believe that you can draw a district
7 that has a community of influence that qualifies under what
8 you're all looking at?

9 SUFYAN SHALTAF: We believe that there are --
10 there is a sizeable population. I can definitely follow-up
11 with you in terms of the exact number of how we arrive at
12 the number we believe we can get to. The primary issue was
13 arriving at an exact population number is that the only way
14 we can do that is -- it's within a margin of error because
15 we have to use -- we can't use the census data specifically
16 because there's no marker on the census that says MENA.
17 Right?

18 So what we do use is American Community Survey
19 and we use basically like they have a system that you can
20 use for origin, so you can pull back people who describe
21 themselves as Moroccan-American, Palestinian-American,
22 Jordanian-American, etc., that comprise this group that we
23 would talk about as the MENA community or the
24 Arab-American-Muslim community.

1 Also, in addition to that, like I mentioned
2 before in my testimony is, we are also talking about
3 registered voters, just because that's a simple place that
4 we could go to pull our surnames, basically last names that
5 are very popular, like Darwish, for example, or Ahmed or,
6 you know, a variety of others. We have a complete list of
7 that that we run against the voter file and we can pull out
8 basically all of the registered voters and to some degree
9 folks who are not registered who are currently in the file.

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Are you looking
11 at other areas in the state or is that really the main
12 concentration for MENA in that area of the state?

13 RUSH DARWISH: In regards to MENA, absolutely.
14 The southwest suburbs is the mecca, if you will, to the
15 Arab-American, Christian-American and Muslim communities.
16 It's one of the largest in the country.

17 I would say again, just to add on what Sufyan
18 was saying, the biggest challenge we have is the census is
19 that here we have clear faces of Arab-American, but yet
20 historically when people would check that box we would have
21 to go under White. So gathering data, we have had to go
22 through many complex avenues to get where we need to get
23 to. We hope that when the new information comes out, that
24 there will be more data to justify that there needs to be a

1 designation for MENA. We have learned that we have had
2 some extreme challenges when it comes to them.

3 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: I would -- And
4 I would just say, I appreciate what you're talking about.
5 We know there's not a Muslim that serves in the
6 legislature. You testified you don't believe there's an
7 Arab-American. Not that I can think of offhand. I think
8 Senator Shadid might be the last Arab-American that served
9 in the General Assembly.

10 To my point, I'm a Peorian. I grew up in
11 Peoria. I don't live in Peoria now. Representative Spain
12 represents Peoria. I worked for an Arab-American member of
13 Congress for 14 years. Peoria has one of the largest
14 Arab-American populations now, not Muslim per se, more
15 Christian, but one of the largest Arab-American populations
16 in the state, largely Lebanese. And in fact I think
17 Congressman Darin LaHood is our only Arab-American member
18 of the 18 members -- of the 20 members of our delegation in
19 Washington.

20 And again, Peoria is a community that has been
21 divided up. I will -- If Representative Spain wants to
22 talk about it he can. But with a large Arab-American
23 population and I have -- I have thought obviously about the
24 Muslim question as we've testified over the last few weeks.

1 I even thought about the Arab-American question as well.
2 It is quite amazing given that the presence in our state
3 that we don't have an Arab-American in the General
4 Assembly. So thank you two for your testimony. I really
5 appreciate it.

6 RUSH DARWISH: Just to throw this out there.
7 I mean, it might sound extreme, but we are willing to
8 district Peoria and the southwest suburbs. If you want to
9 bring those worlds together, we can have that discussion
10 right now. We are open to it.

11 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Peoria, not
12 only congressmen, but you had a state senator, you had the
13 mayor, Mayor Maloof, Senator Shadid all at the same time
14 serving as Arab-Americans from Peoria, a rich history in
15 that part of the state.

16 Madam Chair, if I might move on to Mr. Tolley.
17 And, Mr. Tolley, thank you again for coming back today, and
18 I really appreciate your testimony today. I think it
19 underscores a lot that has been said in these hearings, a
20 lot that we have talked about in these hearings as well, so
21 I appreciate your testimony.

22 I did have a question for you because you
23 brought this up, I know Change has brought this up a few
24 times, about the fact of the legislature going to court to

1 ask for some kind of relief from the Supreme Court under
2 our Constitutional requirements, and I don't know if you
3 can answer this, and I don't know if you're an attorney or
4 not, but wouldn't anyone in Illinois, wouldn't any Illinois
5 citizen have standing to go to court for that, possibly?

6 RYAN TOLLEY: Thank you, Rep Butler. As you
7 noted, I'm not an attorney, so I will not be able to answer
8 that question from you. I can speak to how things were
9 handled in California, and that was a lawsuit filed by the
10 General Assembly. So, you know, that's kind of our thought
11 is that it has been done. This isn't a new concept, and as
12 I mentioned in the testimony, that happened last year. So,
13 you know, this isn't kind of something that is just taking
14 place over the last few weeks we're learning about. This
15 happened almost a year ago at this point.

16 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Gotcha. I just
17 didn't know if Change or other organizations were exploring
18 that possibility given the fact, in my non legal mind, I
19 would assume that anyone who was impacted under
20 redistricting, which would be the 13 or so million
21 Illinoisans, might have a standing in that. So I didn't
22 know if there was any change the groups were looking at.

23 The other question I had, and you brought up
24 the political data, and I really appreciate how you couched

1 that. In your mind, how should -- I mean, it has been said
2 political data must be used at least for compliance with
3 the Voting Rights Act. But how would you envision
4 political data either being used or not being used when it
5 comes to drawing the boundaries?

6 RYAN TOLLEY: Sure. As I stated before, for
7 any use of it to protect elected officials or candidates or
8 to harm elected officials or candidates, there should --
9 political data should not be used for that purpose. You
10 know, when you're looking at all -- in the mapmaking
11 process, I think political data has been used in the past
12 for, you know, making districts competitive, which we have
13 a problem with here in Illinois. A lot of our elections,
14 as put in previous testimony, are particularly at the
15 general level. There is no competition. Voters don't have
16 a choice, and even those that do have a choice the
17 elections aren't even close.

18 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: And there are
19 multiple states that take out the political data, except
20 for compliance with Voting Rights Act; correct?

21 RYAN TOLLEY: Yes, and there are some
22 community of interest definitions that specifically state a
23 community of interest is not based on any type of
24 political, you know, political relationship of the

1 community. So that is differentiating what a community of
2 interest is to what, you know, a political desire is. So
3 there is that way that folks look at communities of
4 interest as well.

5 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: The last
6 question I have, and maybe you can't answer this, but the
7 Supreme Court case from the last few years was on the
8 Congressional level, that basically the Supreme Court said
9 it's fine for political gerrymandering on the Congressional
10 level, but it's an open question as to whether political
11 gerrymandering could be done on the state level; is that
12 correct? Are you familiar with that?

13 RYAN TOLLEY: I believe you're talking the
14 case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court; correct?

15 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Correct.

16 RYAN TOLLEY: Yes, my understanding is that at
17 least for state districts is that they kind of left it for
18 states to determine on the political side for partisan
19 gerrymandering, whether or not that was -- that would be
20 for states to decide and not the U.S. Supreme Court.

21 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: Very good.
22 Thanks for being here today.

23 Thank you, Madam Chair, for allowing
24 questions.

1 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Sure. Representative
2 Bourne, do you have any questions?

3 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: Thank you, Madam
4 Chair.

5 My question is for you, Mr. Monroy. Thank you
6 for being with us again. You mentioned the Waukegan and
7 Elgin areas that you wanted to see Latino majority
8 districts. Do you have a target number? I know we have
9 heard from, I believe it was the Latino Policy Forum, that
10 they were hoping for 20 combined Senate and Representative
11 districts. Do you have a number that you think would be
12 the appropriate amount in an ideal map for you?

13 STEVEN MONROY: Thank you for the question,
14 Representative. Our position is that we will follow the
15 data where it leads. So we will have to take a close look
16 at any proposals as well as just the raw data, the data
17 once it's available for the 2020 census, to make
18 determinations on where best to draw these districts.

19 I specifically highlighted the districts
20 around Waukegan and Elgin because these are districts that
21 were drawn very, very close to majority. They are in the
22 high 40s of Latino voting age population, according to the
23 2010 census. So those I believe warrant a special
24 consideration for population growth, and seeing if those

1 districts can be straightened, looking at what the results
2 of the census would be. That's our recommendation of
3 taking an especially close look.

4 As for the total number, we would have to see
5 what would be the best configuration as well as the
6 location for future districts following the results of the
7 population shift.

8 REPRESENTATIVE BOURNE: I appreciate that now,
9 and I also appreciate the acknowledgement that we probably
10 don't have a good picture of exactly what the
11 Representative districts should look like until we get the
12 full picture from the 2020 census and understand and
13 appreciate the testimony that we have heard that using just
14 the American Community Survey data or data that we have
15 access to now may undercount minority population.

16 So thank you for that, and I look forward to
17 hopefully, if we are able to, I think we all agree with
18 your suggestion that we get at least two weeks after seeing
19 a map for input, that we will be able to get your input
20 then, and hopefully that means we have census data as well.
21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Representative
23 Bourne.

24 I just want to -- just make a comment to

1 Mr. Tolley. I just wanted to know or make sure that if you
2 are aware that we have added additional remote hearings.
3 We have scheduled supplemental in-person hearings in the
4 western Illinois and Chicago area. Are you aware of that?

5 RYAN TOLLEY: Well, I saw, at least this
6 morning, that there were some hearings posted on the
7 website, but I have not had a chance to go through and see
8 what areas those were being hosted in.

9 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Yes, and I also wanted to
10 add that the remote hearings have served a great purpose,
11 too, in allowing individuals that should they have missed a
12 regional area to testify, it doesn't mean that they can't
13 testify at another hearing, as you hear we have some
14 testimony today.

15 So I encourage the public that if you missed a
16 regional, it does not mean that you cannot testify in
17 another regional area. So that is a great advantage of the
18 remote hearings that we're conducting. Thank you.

19 Representative Spain.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you, Madam
21 Chairwoman. It's great to see you in person. Just wanted
22 to thank some of the witnesses that are joining us here in
23 the room in Springfield, and just, in my opinion, your
24 advocacy for Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, and some of

1 your colleagues that have joined us virtually repeatedly
2 has been outstanding, and I really credit your organization
3 and dedication.

4 I don't accept the challenge of trying to
5 unleash some of the best gerrymandering in Illinois to draw
6 Peoria and Chicago together. But nonetheless, I really
7 compliment you on a very good job well done. So thank you.

8 RUSH DARWISH: Thank you. I mean, we could
9 bring some falafel from my neck of the woods and maybe that
10 will influence you just a little bit, Representative.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. I do have a
12 question for Mr. Tolley and, first of all, I appreciate you
13 for both yourself and Change Illinois in the role of being
14 a bit of a referee in some of these proceedings because I
15 think the observations that you have made about the lack of
16 transparency, the difficulties with scheduling witnesses,
17 the timing and location of some of these hearings are very
18 astute and important observations.

19 One of the things that you asked for, though,
20 Mr. Tolley, we've discussed this a few times, which is
21 petitioning the court for deviation from the Constitution
22 and to delay, and you mentioned that California has done
23 this, but I have a question for you. Does California use
24 the same type of redistricting process that we are using

1 here in the State of Illinois?

2 RYAN TOLLEY: Thank you, Representative Spain.
3 No. California had established an independent commission,
4 and that was in operation prior to the 2011 redistricting
5 cycle, and will, of course, be in effect for 2021 as well.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SPAIN: Thank you. So that's
7 an important distinction, if we look at what California has
8 done to seek relief from their state constitution and
9 receiving more time to execute the redistricting. They
10 have already done the important work that is the big thing
11 that we missed out on over the last 10 years that was
12 repeatedly blocked, and that is to have an independent
13 process available so that we can truly achieve fair maps
14 that are not drawn by incumbent partisan politicians.

15 So, Mr. Tolley, again, thank you for playing
16 this important role of referee, and I would just encourage
17 you and Change Illinois, if you continue to advocate for
18 this method of approaching the courts, I'd just like you to
19 think about what some of the next steps may be because only
20 allowing more time to still execute this redistricting
21 activity in the way it has always occurred in the State of
22 Illinois with incumbent partisan legislators drawing their
23 own maps and effectively selecting their own voters,
24 allowing more time to just do the same thing will not

1 create a different result for us, and if we're able to take
2 advantage of some of the principles that were enshrined in
3 your organization's efforts to amend the Constitution, that
4 is the important second part of the discussion that I, in
5 my opinion, needs to come in addition to some of the other
6 things that you advocated for regarding a change in
7 timeline.

8 So that's my friendly recommendation, and
9 greatly appreciate your observations and comments here
10 today.

11 Thank you, Madam Chair.

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

13 We have two more witnesses. They have been
14 added at the end, and they are -- that is Reema Kamran from
15 the Muslim Civic Organization and Roaa Hussien. Reema, are
16 you ready to go?

17 REEMA KAMRAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I
18 appreciate being invited to share our testimony with the
19 legislators as well as our Representative, Theresa Mah, our
20 colleagues from MALDEF and from Change Illinois.

21 My name is Reema Kamran, and that is R-E-E-M-A
22 and the last name is K-A-M-R-A-N, and I am with the
23 Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition. We are a coalition of
24 over 150 -- I'm sorry. We are a coalition of over 150

1 partners and allies of all races, ethnicities, class, faith
2 and backgrounds, and our focus is ensuring that policies
3 made for us are made with us, and redistricting is one
4 critical piece of this. We appreciate Change Illinois
5 sharing information about this meeting with us.

6 Dear Legislators, you have seen my colleagues
7 Deena Habbal and myself and Dr. Dilara Sayeed testifying
8 along with 30 leaders across 10 counties at the previous 20
9 plus hearings. They told you about the diversity of our
10 communities. They told you that in Illinois we are among
11 the wealthiest families in the nation and many families
12 that are under the poverty line. Communities that have
13 been supporting the election, those that are running for
14 elections as well as who have been voting in record
15 numbers. We are small business owners, new immigrants, who
16 are excited to be a part of the Democratic process, as well
17 as hard working Americans, you know, doing everything to
18 achieve the American dream.

19 In Illinois, we have communities that did not
20 exist in 2010, and we have those others who were never
21 vocal about their needs, and still others who have grown in
22 the last 10 years. Our communities, those that have been
23 wonderful communities or underrepresented, fit into many of
24 those criteria. We have refugees, new immigrants, new

1 voters and many more.

2 The coalition recommends that the legislators
3 make sure to use census data, plus community organization
4 conversations, such as this one, and ACS data, along with
5 community partnerships and meetings with community members
6 and faith communities to engage in redistricting, and that
7 the process is transparent, inclusive and clear.

8 I would like to share a little data with you
9 and that my colleague Roaa Hussien, who is from south Cook,
10 and Fatima El-Mohammed, who is from north Cook, would be
11 sharing some information about the neighborhoods that they
12 come from.

13 Our goal, along with our partners, is to
14 provide redistricting maps. Redistricting maps that will
15 be available, that we can -- by April 30th. And our goal
16 again as mentioned is to make sure that we want all
17 communities to have equitable representation. We are
18 working with Latino, Arab-American, Asian,
19 African-American, African immigrant, South Asian and many
20 others, and our goal is to provide a unity map that is just
21 across communities.

22 So a little bit about the story. The American
23 story is diverse. Muslim communities across our nations
24 are among the most diverse faith groups. Though the

1 coalition is not a religious organization, we want to
2 highlight that race, class and faith connect, and when
3 redistricting, these are critical aspects of the community
4 to take into consideration. Those who identify as Muslim
5 also identify as African-American, almost 30 percent as we
6 can see from the pie chart on the top left. Asian about
7 25 percent. White, Arab, Latino and African immigrant.
8 This is a story many of us may not have heard of because
9 often -- as often it is with invisible communities, we do
10 our work and we focus on following the rules.

11 In my own family, I have Arab, Pakistani,
12 Indian and Latino members. I immigrated to the U.S. over
13 20 years ago, and as a proud resident I have been an active
14 member since then. As an immigrant I'm aware of the
15 challenges that we face, the fears and the hopes and the
16 dreams, and I share this experience with many hard-to-count
17 communities, and I also share that we continue to be
18 working towards the American dream that we all strive for.

19 DuPage County is one of the largest growing
20 counties in terms of diversity, as one of the presentations
21 mentioned. Illinois itself is one of the most diverse
22 states in the United States of America. It ranks in the
23 25 percent in racial diversity and about 10 percent -- top
24 10 percent in religious diversity. Illinois has some of

1 the largest Polish, Irish, African-American, Latino,
2 Catholic and Hindu residents in the nation, and Illinois
3 has the largest per capita American Muslim population in
4 the states. These residents live, work, play, pray and
5 serve our cities and counties, and they all work together
6 for better Illinois, but we have zero representation in
7 Illinois.

8 They are diverse. They want to do the best
9 for their communities, but representation matters. Elected
10 officials should understand their constituents but also
11 look like their constituents. Our hope to is to provide
12 maps -- provide maps and, you know, we have three "asks" of
13 the committee.

14 One: Please do not push responsibility back
15 to 2030 to provide representations to communities who have
16 zero representation or are underrepresented.

17 Arab communities are identified as White in
18 the census, and this is incorrect. Please use census data,
19 ACS data, conversations with Arab and -- as well as
20 community leaders, community partnerships and faith leaders
21 who know the racial, faith and ethnic demographics across
22 10 counties. Ensure that the 2021 maps reflect the
23 diversity of race, ethnicity and faith across Illinois.

24 We know it's a lengthy and complex process,

1 but we pray and hope that what results from this are well
2 drawn out and equitable districts, which will not much like
3 any community, but instead protect the proper allocation of
4 funds, resources and create equitable representations for
5 all Illinois residents.

6 We have been working with, as mentioned, you
7 know, with many of our partner organizations, but as you
8 can see just very briefly from the slides that I'm showing
9 you, that the Muslim-led centers and businesses and
10 organizations are spread all throughout Illinois.

11 I will pause here and I would like to invite
12 Roaa Hussien, who is a community civic leader, to speak and
13 give a little bit of information. Roaa, are you on?

14 ROAA HUSSIEN: Hi, everyone. Thank you so
15 much for, you know, allowing me to speak today. Thank you
16 so much for hearing out other communities of interest
17 today.

18 I am from the same community that Rush Darwish
19 and Sufyan Shaltaf have talked about, the southwest
20 suburbs, the Middle Eastern/North African community who may
21 identify as Muslim. I just really, really want to
22 emphasize the point that Middle Eastern, Middle Easterns,
23 Arab-Americans and Muslims still virtually have zero
24 representation in Illinois government, which is a really,

1 really big shock because we are the state with the largest
2 per capita Muslims living here.

3 So it's a very, very large shock that we still
4 have to push for these efforts, and yeah, I don't want to
5 bore everybody with the statistics. Sufyan gave a really,
6 really great consensus of data that he collected, and,
7 yeah, just really looking at that and how much money that
8 we have, you know, put into the economy, how much money we
9 have invested into the community, how many multiple,
10 multiple, multiple community organizations that we have
11 established since, you know, the 1990s, 1980s, you know.

12 Our community has been here for a really,
13 really, really long time, and we are ready for a district
14 and we are ready to run one of our people, we are ready to
15 win. I am a community organization -- I'm a community
16 organizer. I come from an organizing background and just
17 for the short four years that I have been organizing in my
18 community, I have seen so many Arab-American or Muslim
19 candidates try to run and tried to protect our interests
20 and just, you know, not win because they don't have a large
21 concentration of Arab-Americans to come out and vote for
22 their interests as well.

23 So, yes, just really, really emphasizing the
24 point that we still have zero representation and that we

1 cannot push this matter to 2030. We need an Arab-American
2 or Muslim district in the southwest suburbs this year.

3 Thank you so much for hearing me out. Thank
4 you so much, Madam Chair. But, yeah, I'm open to any
5 questions if anybody has any.

6 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you for that. I
7 will ask you if you can spell out your name just so we have
8 it clear.

9 ROAA HUSSIEN: Yeah. I'm so sorry. My first
10 name is R-O-A-A. Last name is H-U-S-S-I-E-N. Roaa
11 Hussien.

12 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you.

13 ROAA HUSSIEN: Thank you so much.

14 REEMA KAMRAN: We also have Fatima who just
15 wanted to say a brief hello. Just wanted to make sure that
16 we recognized her as well. Fatima, are you on?

17 FATIMA EL-MOHAMMED: Yes, I'm on. Peace be on
18 to you everyone. My name is Fatima El-Mohammed,
19 F-A-T-I-M-A. Last name E-L dash M-O-H-A-M-M-E-D,
20 El-Mohammed. I'm from community of Nigerian and Guyana
21 community.

22 The Nigerian communities are located around
23 Sheridan and Orland Park. We are a community that is not
24 really recognized at all and we don't have any

1 representative, and I'm grateful that we are able to join
2 the coalition, that we're being recognized by the
3 coalition, but we are not recognized by any representative.

4 So I'm here on behalf of Guyana and Nigeria to
5 represent, so our voice can be heard and we need a
6 representative for our community. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you, Fatima. So
8 that concludes our testimony from the witnesses. Are there
9 any questions from members?

10 REPRESENTATIVE LEADER BUTLER: I'll make it
11 short, Madam Chair. I just want to say thank you to Reema
12 and Fatima for once again testifying. You guys have been
13 stellar in these hearings and, Roaa, nice to meet you.
14 Thanks for being here.

15 If you don't mind, Madam Chair, let me just
16 give a little bit of a closing. I handed to you and I sent
17 to you earlier today a letter from both myself and a
18 representative, or excuse me, Senator Barickman asking that
19 our April 19th hearing in East St. Louis has some -- either
20 the Governor himself, which would be great, or someone from
21 the Governor's office to come as a witness so we can get on
22 the record and answer some questions as to what the
23 Governor's thoughts are on redistricting.

24 Obviously as Mr. Tally stated, the Governor

1 has been very public in his support for independent
2 commission. His spokesperson as of January of this year
3 stated that the Governor, "has been clear he will veto a
4 partisan map," and so I think it's really important that we
5 have the Governor testify in front of us. He has some
6 really smart people working in his office who have
7 experience with gerrymandering maps.

8 And so my concern is that -- My concern is
9 really we need to know what's going on at the Governor's
10 office. If we could make that request of the Governor,
11 that would be great. We would love to have him there in
12 East St. Louis, when it's the only joint House/Senate
13 committee hearing that I think we have. So if we could --
14 If we could expedite that request, I would appreciate it.

15 So thank you again. Thank you for all the
16 witnesses today. This has been an enlightening hearing
17 here in Springfield, and just glad to be back here in 114,
18 this beautiful room, for a hearing. So thank you, Madam
19 Chair.

20 CHAIRMAN HERNANDEZ: All right. Thank you,
21 Leader Butler. So your request is taken.

22 I just want to once again really thank all the
23 witnesses for making the time to come and testify. Your
24 testimony is extremely valuable to the decision-making

1 here. The collection of all the information will
2 definitely be very much considered. So thank you all.

3 That concludes today's committee, so we will
4 recess to the call of the Chair. Thank you all. Have a
5 great afternoon.

6

7 (Adjourned at 3:38 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Jamie Jo Kinder, CCR No. 842, CSR No. 084.003306, do hereby certify that the foregoing hearing was taken by me in stenotype and thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that said hearing is a true record of the hearing to the best of my ability. I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome.


Jamie Jo Kinder
Certified Shorthand Reporter



HEARING 4/12/2021

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